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Letter dated 18 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement on Indonesia, issued on 15 May 2000 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union. (See annex.)

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 116 (b).

(*Signed*) António **Monteiro**
Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 18 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and French]

Statement on Indonesia issued on 15 May 2000 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union

The European Union wants to see a strong, democratic, united and prosperous Indonesia. It supports the territorial integrity of Indonesia and has welcomed the efforts of the present Indonesian Government to solve the country's internal conflicts through dialogue rather than force of arms. The European Union therefore welcomes the signature on 12 May 2000 in Geneva of a memorandum of understanding between the Indonesian Government and the Free Aceh Movement. It urges both sides to abide by its terms. The European Union considers that the memorandum of understanding represents a first step towards finding a just and lasting solution to the problems in Aceh. The European Union also welcomes the start of the legal process to bring to justice the alleged perpetrators of human rights abuses in the province.

The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union, the associated countries Cyprus, Malta and Turkey, and the European Free Trade Association countries members of the European Economic Area align themselves with the statement.